

Date: November 25, 2003 Label No. ER683270177US I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, I deposited this paper with identified attachments and/or fee with the U.S. Postal Service and that it was addressed for delivery to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service.

Stephanie Hill
Name (Print)

Stephanie Hill
Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: RAO, deceased, et al.)	Parent Examiner: Daniel J. Jenkins
)	
Application No.: Unassigned)	
)	Parent Group Art Unit: 1742
Filed: November 25, 2003)	
)	
Docket No.: 00014DIV (3600-267-02))	Confirmation No.: Unassigned

For: NITRIDED VALVE METALS AND PROCESSES FOR MAKING THE SAME

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

November 25, 2003

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application on the merits, applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.